



Douglas Elementary PTO Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2026 DES Media Center 3:30pm

Board Members: Raechel Hardin, President/Becky Starring, Vice President/Renee Russell, Treasurer/Alison Mixan, Secretary/Deb Wall, Member-at-Large/Michaelle Gust, DES Principal

Meeting called to order by: Raechel Hardin, President
Others in Attendance: 4 Board Members not present: N/A

I. President's Update (Raechel Hardin)

- A. An at-large board position is still open.
- B. Jennifer Forsythe has committed to leading the walkathon evening event for the next school year. She has already begun recruiting others to assist.
- C. Regarding the teachers' budgets, Alaina Hale and Nicole Robb stated the teachers are not necessarily asking for more money; however, they would gladly accept an increase if we could offer it. One suggestion was for teachers to spend the additional money on a special event they have in their classroom (e.g. the Q/U wedding in kindergarten or the fancy lunch day in 4th grade).

II. Principal's Update (Michaelle Gust)

- A. Michaelle said the teachers expressed their appreciation for the conference meals provided by parents.
- B. She also provided dates for upcoming events/activities.
 - 1. February 27th: Popcorn Friday
 - 2. March 2nd: Paws with a Cause and Wishbone (Meaghan Kelley will be working with the student council to come up with a fundraising idea to support these organizations).
 - 3. March 5th: The doodle artist will visit all classes for March is Reading Month.
 - 4. March 6th: Half day of school
 - 5. March 24-26th: A PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) reward is planned for all classes. Students will enjoy an afternoon of bowling at Alley's!
- C. Michaelle met with Velo City Cycles for the bike program. She proposed adding TK to participate in this program. This should work within our budget.

III. Treasurer's Update (Renee Russell)

- A. Renee provided the Treasurer's Report from 7/01/2025-01/31/2026. All spending is on track relative to our budget, and bank statements have been reconciled.
- B. A financial policy (to include investment guidelines) and debit cardholder agreement were distributed and discussed. There were no proposed amendments. Renee made a motion to adopt the financial policy and debit cardholder agreement dated 02/19/2026.



The motion was seconded. Raechel called for a vote. The motion passed (6-0). The adopted financial policy will be posted on the PTO website.

IV. Teacher's Report (Alaina Hale/Nicole Robb)

- A. Alaina said she reminded teachers to send any pictures taken of PTO sponsored activities, so Raechel can post on the PTO social media pages.
- B. As mentioned in the president's update, Alaina and Nicole got input from the teachers regarding a budget increase, which the PTO plans to revisit during the budget meeting in the summer.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Garden Committee (Dana Phillips)
 - 1. April 17th: A garden cleanup is scheduled from 9-12. Dana said some of the Miller Knoll grant money will be spent on mulch.
- B. Family Dance (Kelli Bowman and Joelle Sanger)
 - 1. The dance is scheduled for Saturday, March 28th from 5-8pm. This year's theme is Snow Ball. Michaelle will confirm with Kim Sharda that the gym will be available although it is on the calendar. The DJ has been booked. A SignUp Genius will be sent out in mid March to recruit volunteers.
- C. March is Reading Month (Amy McKee/Meaghan Kelley/Amanda Frank)
 - 1. Michaelle provided dates in the principal's update.
 - 2. Raechel plans to reach out to the committee to see if they'd like to incorporate the book swap as an event, rather than having the book swap at the Color Run as in previous years.
- D. Screen-Free Week (Leah Root)
 - 1. Leah met with Erin from the Saugatuck/Douglas District Library. Erin would like to collaborate with the school and offer events at the library. As of now, Pearler beads, family bingo and Lego lab will be offered.
 - 2. SCA would also like to do a collaboration with the school. Leah spoke with Whitney Valentine who suggested doing an activity at the school on Monday, May 4th during Screen-Free Week.
 - 3. The Color Run, the culminating event of Screen-Free Week, will take place on Friday, May 8th. Leah said paperwork would need to be filled out with the City of Douglas to reserve Beery Field.
 - 4. It was noted that last year's Color Run started earlier than the time stated, and several kids missed out. This year we will be more cognizant of starting at the given time to ensure the attendees all get to participate.

VI. Eloquence Day (Karen Kerridge/Lisa Diaz)

- A. Lisa and Karen have been meeting with groups to iron out details for decor and food. The food team has already begun to reach out to restaurants. Once the event gets



closer, they will need additional volunteers to help serve food and plan to send out a SignUp Genius.

B. They have a meeting scheduled with Meagan Lampen and Casey Lokker on March 4th to see what things still need to be covered.

C. A theme has been selected, and the committee has lots of fun ideas to make Eloquence Day a memorable event for the 5th graders.

VII. Additional Comments

A. Michaelle presented a book, *Childhood Unplugged: Practical Advice to Get Kids Off Screens and Find Balance*, recommended by the Outdoor Discovery Center.

B. The book led to a brief discussion about how we, as the PTO, could make screen-free information accessible to parents. Some of the ideas we floated were the following:

1. Include blurbs from the book on the PTO social media page
2. Host a parent information night
3. Promote upcoming Unplugged Speaker Series at the ODC (March 3rd and March 17th)
4. Encourage the idea of being screen-free throughout the year; maybe implement goals for kids and have the school promote

Meeting adjourned at 4:21pm Minutes compiled by: Alison Mixan, Secretary